Insights into Automation in Completion and Reverse Transfer

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60×30TX
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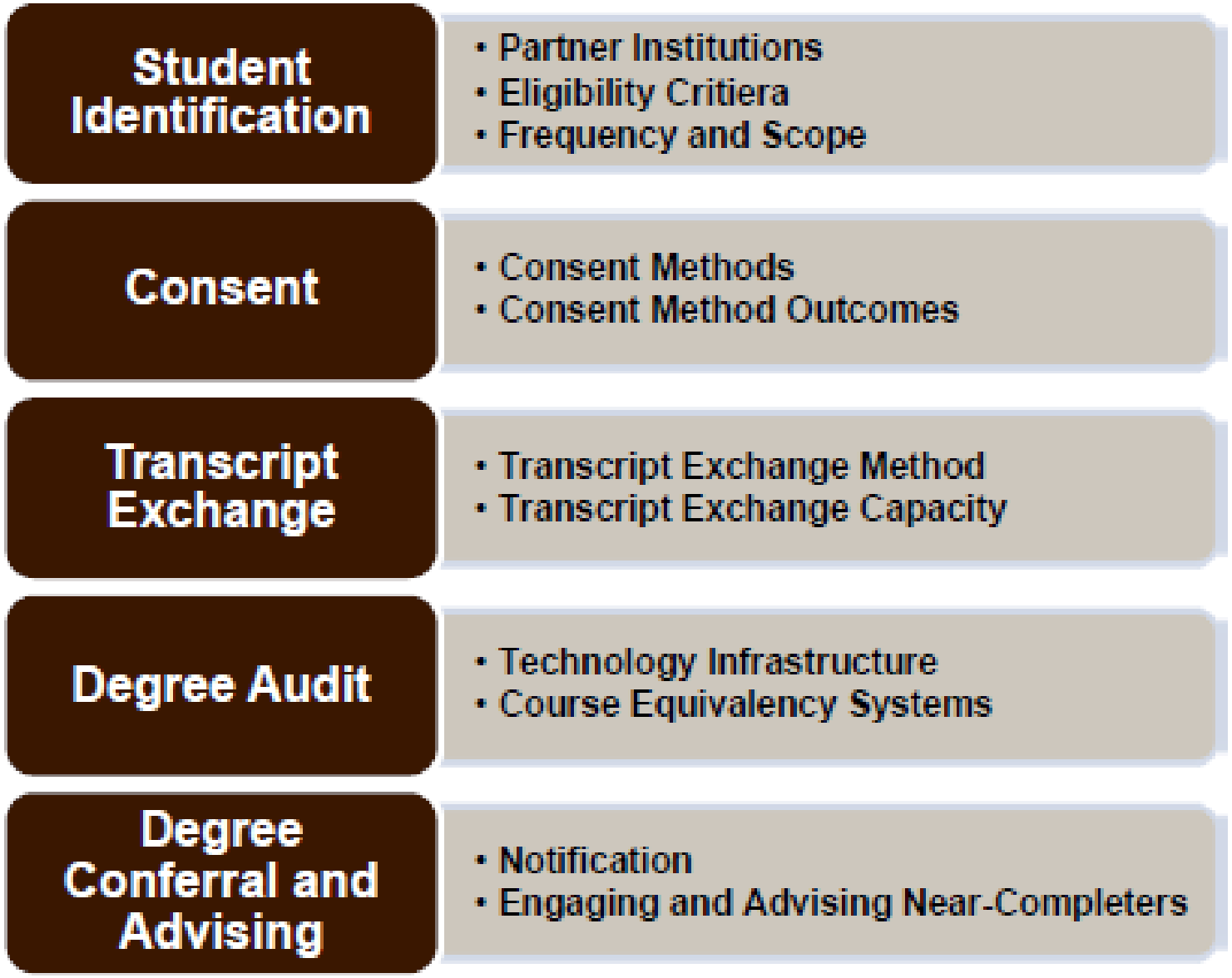
Auto-completion and reverse transfer are popular strategies, but implementation is limited

Nearly 7 out of 10 Texas community and technical colleges reported awarding 50 or fewer degrees through reverse transfer in AY 2017-18.



*Taylor, J.L. and Bragg, D. D. (2015) *Optimizing reverse transfer policies and processes: Lessons from 12 Credit When It's Due states.* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Texas Context

Eligibility for Reverse Transfer

- Does not have an associate degree
- 66 cumulative SCH
- 30 SCH at community college partner

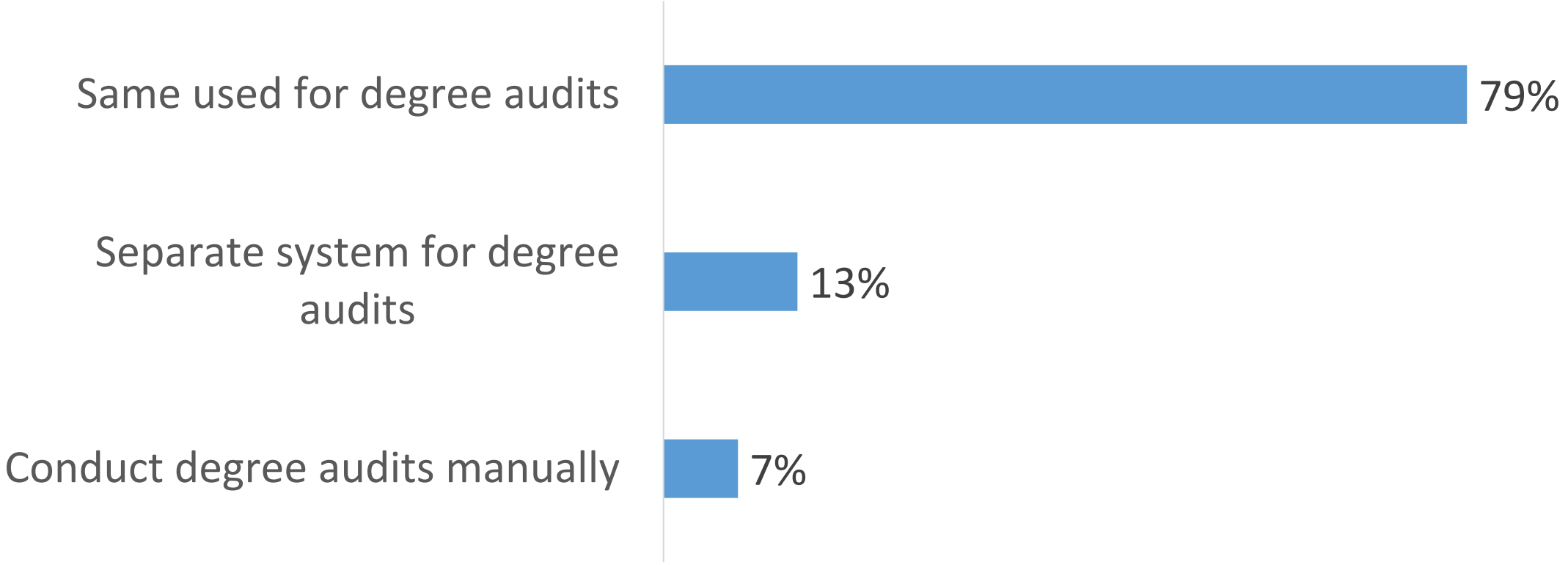
Consent

- ApplyTX items
  - 'Yes' selected

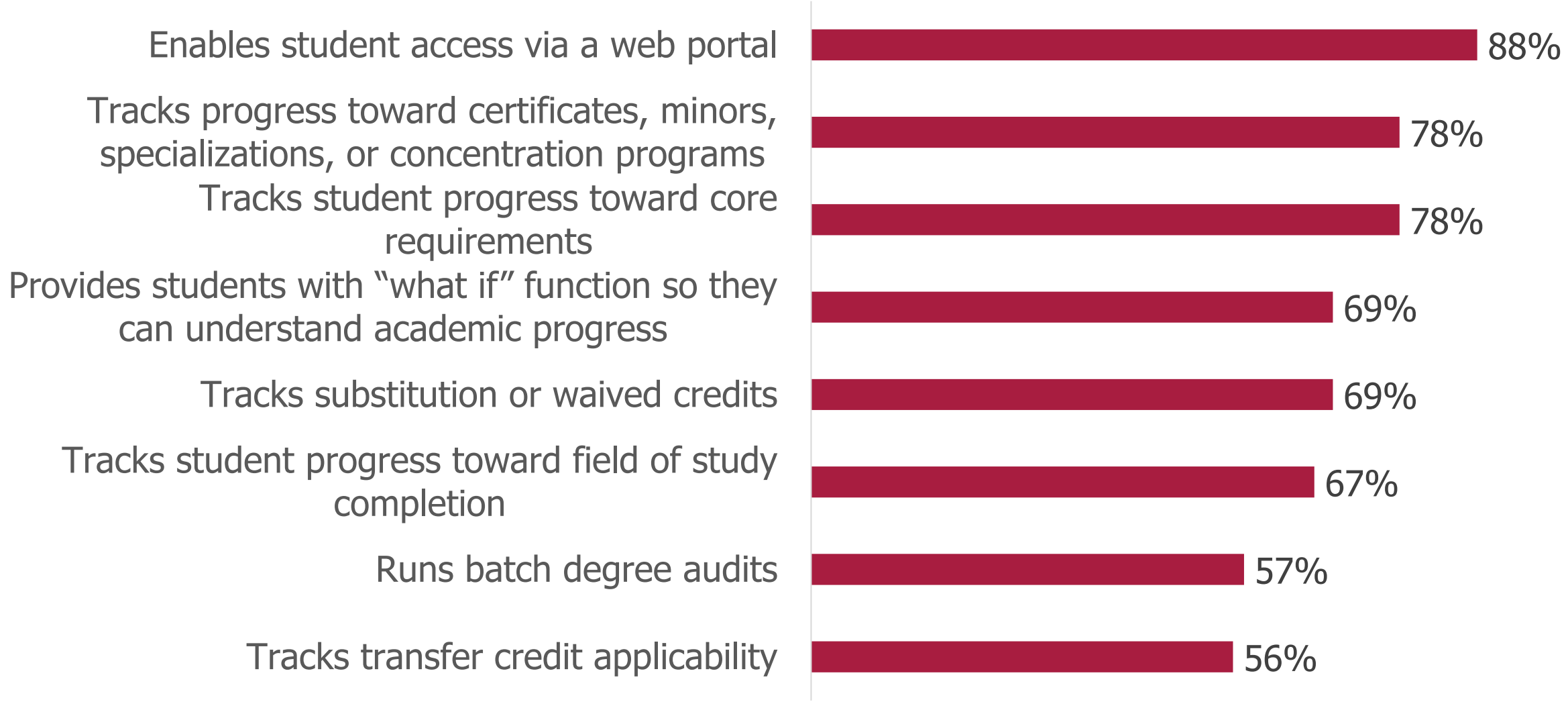
Transcript Exchange

- 69% of CTCs reported using SPEEDE

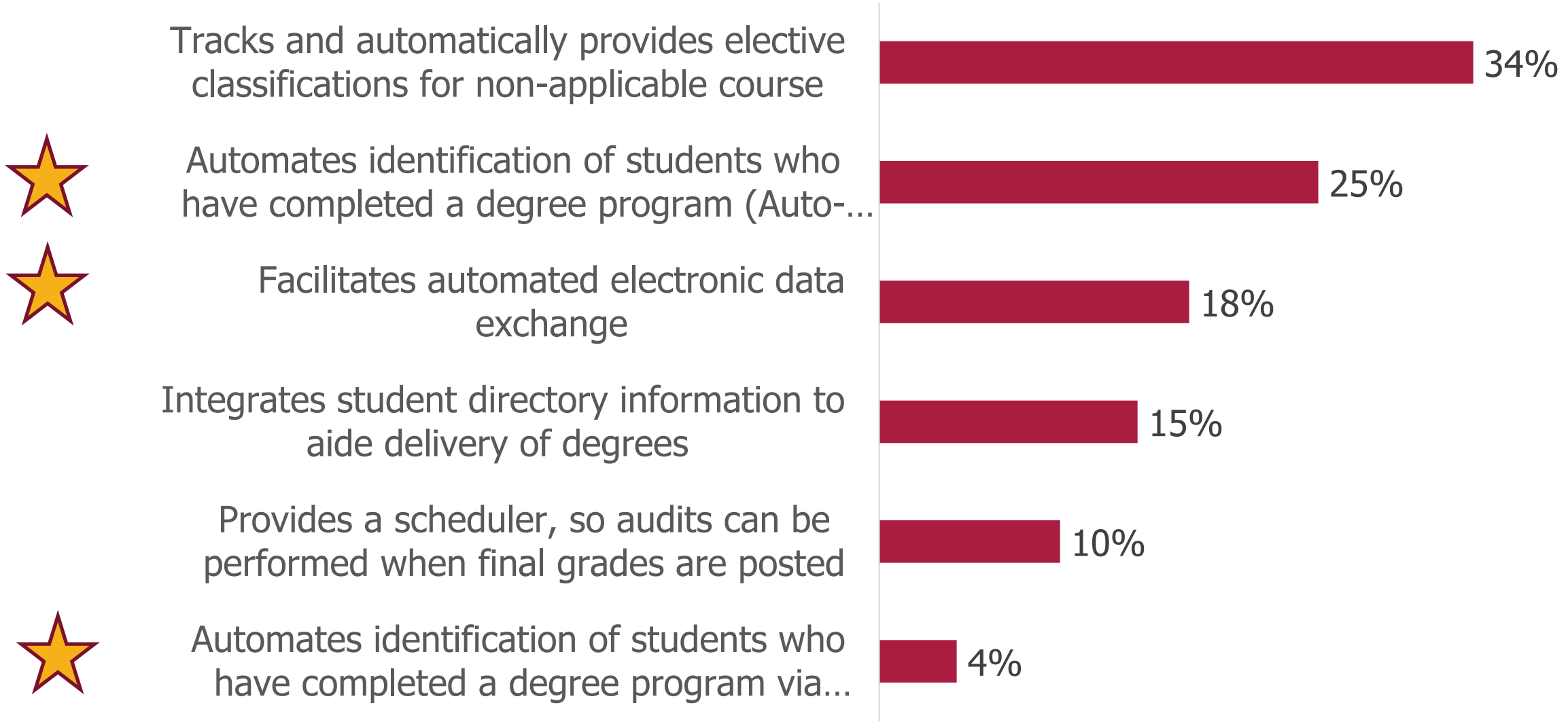
THECB surveyed institutions in spring 2019. Most institutions reported their student information system/enterprise resource planning system incorporates the degree audit system their institution deploys.



Common Features in Degree Audit System



Less Common Features in Degree Audit System



Common Issues

- Manual processes may still required even when using a degree audit system
  - Some systems can only perform one student audit at a time
  - Conversions of transfer credit from transcripts
  - Degree audit is student-initiated process
- Features have limitations that require customizations
  - Some features are not user-friendly for staff, so institution adapts
  - Departments/colleges have specific needs that must be accommodated, such as substitute courses or elective credit designations
  - Batching or filtering requirements
  - Some institutions do not have resources, training, or capacity to make adjustments.

Common Issues, Continued

- Not all capabilities or features are being used
  - Vendors may require additional costs for degree audit capabilities
  - Need for further consultation and training
  - Lack of full integration with all course catalogs, departments, or other idiosyncratic needs

Suggestions for Improvement

- Improve transcript data exchange among institutions
  - Establish common standards and format for **electronic** data exchange
    - Issues when transcripts arrive as paper or PDF.
    - SPEEDE does not identify 'reverse transfer' students
    - Universities do not use the Texas Common Course Numbering System (TCCNS)
  - Implement a reporting schedule for reverse transfer
    - Identify dates for data transfer for reverse transfer, so students are easily identifiable in batch datashould
- THECB provide additional guidance and opportunities for discussion on auto-completion and reverse transfer
  - How to accept junior- or senior-level coursework
  - How does auto-completion affect financial aid
  - What is required under accreditation